

Chapter I – Introduction

*** Program Description**

The U.S. Congress originally established the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) in 1968 as the Child Care Food Program. The purpose of the program is to help you, a CACFP sponsoring organization, integrate nutritious meals with organized child care services.

Initially, the CACFP provided reimbursement for meals served to children in day care centers, settlement homes, and recreational centers in low-income areas where large numbers of working mothers resided. The program was later extended to day care provided in:

- nonprofit child care and adult day care centers;
- certain for-profit child care and adult day care centers; and
- day care homes for children.

The National School Lunch Act, as amended, authorizes federal assistance to states that administer the CACFP. States may use the assistance to help start, maintain, and expand nonprofit food services for children enrolled for child care in nonresidential institutions.

This handbook explains program requirements and protocols that you must follow while sponsoring the participation of day care homes in the CACFP.

*** Administration**

The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) has an agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to administer the CACFP in Indiana, and does so in accordance with federal and state requirements. You can reference these requirements in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 7 CFR Part 226.

*** Other Programs**

The Division of School and Community Nutrition Programs (SCNP), administers the CACFP in child care and adult day care centers and in day care homes. Additionally, we also administer the following USDA programs:

- National School Lunch/School Breakfast Program;
- Special Milk Program;
- Summer Food Service Program;
- Food Distribution Program;

If you are approved to participate in more than one program at the same time, you must ensure that:

- a child is not served the same meals in both programs;
- separate records are kept for each program; and
- costs are attributed to the appropriate program.

*** Funding**

We use USDA monies to fund certain costs associated with food services provided to children. USDA monies may be used to:

- reimburse you for part of the cost of serving meals and supplements to children at eligible day care homes;
- reimburse you for certain administrative expenses associated with sponsoring day care homes; and
- start-up payments and expansion funds.

*** Appeals**

You have the right to appeal any action we take that affects your participation in the CACFP, including the denial of your application. Refer to Chapter 8, Denials, Terminations and Appeals, for additional information regarding your appeal rights.